

REMARKS

The Final Office Action dated September 10, 2007 contained a final rejection of claims 15-19. The Applicants have amended claim 15. Claims 1-12 were withdrawn, and claims 13-14 were canceled, in a previous amendment. Claims 1-12 and 15-19 are in the case. Please consider the present amendment with the attached Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. This amendment is in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

The Office Action objected to the Title of the Invention.

In response, the Applicants have amended the Title of the Invention as suggested by the Examiner to overcome this objection.

The Office Action rejected claims 15-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Yamasaki (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0121652).

The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in view of the amendments to the claims and the arguments below.

Specifically, the Applicant's claimed invention now includes using a processor to distinguish between pixels on the object and sequentially actuating a radiation reducing filters over each pixel with a plurality of scans which are combined into a single image, wherein the sequential actuation and plurality of scans increases the number of pixels without translating the pixels relative to the object between scans. Support for these amendments can be found throughout the specification and at least in FIGS. 1-4 and paragraphs [0016], [0023] and [0024] of the Application specification (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0046716A1).

In contrast, the Applicants submit that Yamasaki do not disclose all of the Applicants' claimed features. Namely, instead, Yamasaki merely disclose a focus detection system that "...can be executed using a pair of object images having a high similarity in a practical defocus range, and consequently, accurate and quick focus detection can be realized." (see Abstract, FIGS. 4 and 37 and paragraph [0141] of Yamasaki).

Although Yamasaki disclose a color filter that passes light in a specific wavelength range, Yamasaki do not disclose the Applicants' newly claimed using a processor to distinguish between pixels on the object and sequentially actuating radiation reducing filters over each pixel with a plurality of scans which are combined into a single image, wherein the sequential actuation and plurality of scans increases

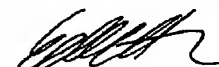
the number of pixels without translating the pixels relative to the object between scans. Because Yamasaki is missing at least one feature of the claimed invention, the Applicants submit that the anticipation rejection should be withdrawn.

With regard to the rejections of the dependent claims, because these rejected claims depend from the above-argued respective independent claims, and they contain additional limitations that are patentably distinguishable over the cited references, these rejected dependent claims are also considered to be patentable (MPEP § 2143.03).

In view of the amendments set forth above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in immediate condition for allowance. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding claim rejections and to pass this application to issue. Additionally, in an effort to expedite and further the prosecution of the subject application, the Applicants kindly invite the Examiner to telephone the Applicants' attorney at (818) 885-1575. Please note that all correspondence should continue to be directed to:

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Respectfully submitted,
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